costing over Rs. 25,000/- is sanctioned by the ESI Corporation by taking into account requirements of all State Governments and overall budgetary position of the ESIC. In order to improve resource position of the State Governments in administration of ESI medical care recently, the Corporation has enhanced the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.99. This ceiling is considered necessary for ensuring proper distribution of fund among State/Union Territories and for keeping control on avoidable expenditure. As the ESI Scheme is of contributory nature with limited resources, it is not possible for the ESIC to share actual expenditure on medical care without any ceiling, as suggested by the Government of Maharashtra.

ESI Hospitals at Chinchawad, Bibwewadi and Kolhapur

2379. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESI Corporation has constructed ESI hospitals at Chinchawad, Bibwewadi and Kolhapur without intimation to Government of Maharashtra causing great financial burden on Government of Maharashtra;

(b) whether ESI Corporation will bear the recurring expenditure on these 3 hospitals for three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per the existing policy, expenditure on the ESI hospitals/ dispensaries constructed in old implemented areas is required to be shared between the ESI Corporation and the concerned State Government in the approved ratio of 7:1.

P.F. of Workers

2380. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tea Gardens in Darjeeling, Dooars and Terai, who are not depositing the P.F. accumulations of workers for years;